

# Goodwin's Weekly.

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## Vote for the Bonds.

In a few days the proposition will be submitted to the tax-payers of this city, whether they will vote to issue \$600,000 in bonds for improvements which it is absolutely necessary should be made in this city, such as extending sewers, building an aqueduct, reinforcing the water mains, etc., all of which are specifically set forth. The work is most essential. There should not be an hour's delay in commencing it and driving it through. It is essential to the general progress of the city. It is work that this generation should not altogether pay for, for the good to accrue from it will extend through all time. The interest on the money will amount to a bagatelle. The people would never feel it, and that such work, direct in line with the progress of the city, ought to be done, there is no question. There would be no question about voting for the bonds except that right in Salt Lake City there are as there always have been, two sets of people; and one set is determined that the city shall never improve except under its auspices. It is the same company that for forty years let this city drift without one single improvement that can be pointed to today with any satisfaction. There were no sewers, no pavements, no paved streets, not one decent school house within the boundaries of the city. There was total inefficiency everywhere, the police was a terror, the fire department a stupendous joke. All the revenues of the city were absorbed in salaries. At the end of forty years of that rule the town was but a hamlet; to call it a city was to stretch courtesy to the limit. There has been a change in the administration in the last two years and a half. Every person in the city can mark the change that has been made. It has amounted in some places already to a transformation. Property has advanced wonderfully. The population has increased quite thirty per cent. Just now more buildings are under construction than at any previous time in the city. There is a feeling of hope which amounts to assurance in the city. This proposed issue of bonds is but to keep that progress in motion, and it comes down as a direct appeal to the property owners whether they would like to have that progress continued and like to have their property steadily increase in value, or whether they want a partial, at least, return to that old inertia, which

nothing seemed able to move. And we appeal to the Mormon people to support the proposition. We appeal to them for many reasons. The first is that having been taught for twenty-five years that the Gentiles were their enemies and the enemy of their church, when the Gentiles got in power they instituted reforms which reduced the death rate of this city sixty per cent in a single year; they caused to be built the beautiful school houses which are now the pride of Salt Lake; they transformed the schools into genuine American schools; they began to build pavements and to lay sidewalks; they began the building of a city. The spirit which they infused into things is the spirit which rules today, and every Mormon property holder is directly interested. There are petitions now before the city government for extensions of sidewalks and paved streets which cover many miles. Whenever these things are carried on the city has to attend to the intersections of the streets, and merely to keep up with the desire of the people, requires work which absorbs all of the revenues which come in by taxation. But these other improvements proposed to be made by the money in case the bonds are issued are absolutely essential to the progress of the city, and there can be but munificent results from them. It will mean more population; it will mean more advances in the value of property; it resolves itself into a question whether what is going on now is good or whether it would be better to go back to those ancient days when there was no hope in the city, when there was no progress, when there were no decent school houses, no paved streets, no sewers, no sidewalks, no crossings, but when it was but a stagnant plebeian village, waiting for the coming of a little public spirit and for the work of some brave and enterprising hands.

We look with confidence to see the proposition for the bonds overwhelmingly sustained by the taxpayers. There is no question of religion in it; it is simply a question of business, and what is best for the business and sanitary interests of the city, and the Mormon who votes "no" on the proposition ought never to again vote in this country because such a vote would be direct testimony that he is willing to surrender his own judgment to his superstitious fears, and that against his best judgment he is anxious to vote in a way to support what? Salt Lake City? No. The best interests of Salt Lake City? No. That priesthood which for forty years misadvised him and absorbed all the taxes he paid and gave nothing in return.

## The Nominations and Campaign.

The Democrats held their convention in Denver last week. They nominated Mr. Bryan on the first ballot. They nominated his running mate, Mr. Kern, by acclamation. They put forth a set of principles in which there is nothing striking or new. They want a Democratic revision of the tariff. They played fast and loose with Mr. Gompers and his injunction demand, and gave him really no more satisfaction than the Republicans did in their platform. They introduced a plank calling for an income tax, which we think is right and just. In a vague way they talked about the dignity of mining and asked for a Department of Mines. They had not one word to say about a merchant marine. They, no more than the Re-

publicans, gave any hint that any man in the convention understood the potentiality of money, and the need of every country of retaining as much money as possible.

The convention was a mighty triumph for Mr. Bryan. It is the third time he has been nominated for President, which is convincing proof that he has a personality and an influence sufficiently great to draw to him delegations from almost all the states of this republic.

The Democracy will go into this campaign with more enthusiasm than they have felt since Appomattox. At the same time we do not believe they are confident of election. One delegate at the convention from an eastern state came here when the convention was over and was talking with a friend and the friend said, "Who do you think will be elected President?"

"Oh," he said, "I suppose Taft," in which he voiced, we think, the impression of four-fifths of the delegates in the convention. At the same time "we cannot always most generally sometimes tell." It will be a bold man who predicts with any certainty in the next six weeks who is to be elected. And we reason simply from the fact that the depression is still pronounced in the east and that in the minds of some millions of Americans there is doubt and uncertainty, and when the American people get to that point there is no telling what they will do.

## Judge King's Denver Triumph.

The triumph that Judge King wrought in keeping the polygamy plank out of the Denver platform, on the ground that every state has such a clause in its Constitution and hence such a measure was unnecessary and there was no use in wounding the pride of Utah by inserting it—we quote from Judge Powers' interview in the News—reads somewhat droll to Utah readers. It is true that Utah has had such a plank since the first state legislature met in this state, and there is where the droll feature comes in. It has not prevented at least five Apostles of the Mormon church from indulging in the luxury—that was a slip of the pen, of course we meant—from living their religion in the holiest and most satisfactory—considering their faith—way. It has enabled the church to fit out important officers so that they would be prepared to expound their religion with discretion with full knowledge, as for instance the gentlemen in charge of all the Mormon schools in Chihuahua, Mexico. There are many others who might be named, but why should our people be annoyed by enemies? It is quite true, too, that Governor Wells had the hardihood to veto a bill which had, for its intent the making impossible the prosecution of polygamy cases in the state courts of Utah, and for this the Governor was summarily shelved so soon as his term expired, though an overwhelming majority of Republicans in the state wanted his reelection. It was not, perhaps, strange for Judge King not to want the business eventually adjusted so that the Federal court could be enlisted to preserve the integrity of the law in that especial feature.

We read in a dispatch from Denver that the Judge intimated that this time it was the Mormons, but next time it might be the Catholics. That would be too bad. We do not think that